

Case - Timothy E. Pfeiffer,
subject - Homicide, New Brunswick, N.J.,
Investigation - Mr. DeM.

105,2066 - James Mills - P1

December 18, to and including December 20, 1923. Secured the following information -

Learned that Cecil Battle of 344 Handy St., New Brunswick, N.J., was arrested for assaulting another colored man by the name of Archie B. Lee, of 7½ City Alley, New Brunswick, N.J., with a knife. This altercation took place about December 9th, in front of the Simplex House at #61 Hiram St., New Brunswick, N.J. The arrest was made by Patrolman Bates. Lee was removed to St. Peters Hospital where his wounds were dressed, and later Lee appeared as a complainant against Cecil Battle, before Recorder Tindell, in the Police Court, New Brunswick, N.J.

I again interviewed Mrs. Addison Clarke, and she informed me that at no time did she find any notes or Mr. Hall's photograph in a hymn book. She has no recollection of Mr. & Mrs. Hall ever having a revolver, especially when Mr. Hall was down at the camp at Point Pleasant, N.J. The following are names of persons who were at the camp: -

Catherine Rastell
Lillian Walker
Ruth Pennington
Marion Clelland
Mrs. Ciple
Mrs. Fulton
Mrs. Hanell
Mrs. Minnoturn
Mrs. Mills and Dr. Hall.

I received the following information from Charlotte Mills: --

On the morning of Sept. 14th, she left her home and arrived at school at 9 a.m., she did not come home for dinner, but arrived at her home at about 2.30 p.m., which was rather early. At her house at that time, was her mother, later on her grandmother came and her brother Danny. In the morning Charlotte had the following conversation with her mother with reference to the Lake Hopatcong trip. Mrs. Mills said she did not enjoy herself on the trip. Charlotte was unable to tell me if there wasn't anything unusual

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about Mrs. Hall's actions. Charlotte said that the grandmother remained there a short time and left. Charlotte stayed in the house continuously until after supper. Mr. Mills came home and had supper after six o'clock, and there were few words, or something said about the supper being cold; the mother answering that she had to warm it four or five times. Mr. Mills said he had some shavings to sweep up at the church. At the supper table were Mr. & Mrs. Mills, Charlotte and her brother Danny. After supper Charlotte helped to wash the dishes, the father started to do some carpentry work. Charlotte then went out upon the front stoop knitting on a sweater, she was joined there by her mother. The mother left her at about 7 o'clock saying that she was going upstairs to get some clippings which she got from a newspaper, and which she was going to put on Mr. Hall's desk at the church. Mrs. Mills left with these clippings on her way to the church at a little after 7 o'clock. When I asked Charlotte what the clippings were, she said that they referred to a minister out in the west, she thinks it is Indiana, that his name might be Stickney, but that when she spoke to her father about this, her father disagreed with her saying that they were clippings on sports or athletics.

Charlotte further stated that her mother returned from the Church, and joined her on the stoop. Mrs. Mills then told Charlotte that she had met Mrs. Opie on the corner, and that Mrs. Opie had told her there had been a telephone call for her in the afternoon from Mr. Hall, that Mrs. Opie tried to get Mrs. Mills, but was unsuccessful. Mrs. Mills then told Charlotte, "I am going upstairs to get a nickel so I can telephone, wait for me, kid, until I come back. Instead of waiting for her mother to come down, Charlotte left a few seconds after her mother, but saw her mother come down from the house and go towards Abell St., in the direction of the store where she was going to telephone from.

Charlotte went direct to her Uncle's house at #12 Oliver St., New Brunswick N.J. While there a short while her Uncle Vernie Mills entered the house intoxicated, and started to find fault with Charlotte, telling her that she ought to go to work and help her father. Later the conversation drifted to politics and President Harding. Charlotte was later joined at her uncle's house by her brother Danny, who arrived there at about quarter to ten. They then left her Uncle's house and proceeded to and entered their own home at about 10 p.m. Charlotte informed me that her father was not home at this time, but arrived a few minutes later - After staying in the house a short while he immediately left saying that he was going to the Church. Charlotte is unable to say where her father had been between 7.50 p.m. when she left her stoop until 10 P.M. when she returned to her home. When I asked her, "Do you know where your father had been," her answer was, "I suppose with that bunch of ex-convicts that he hangs out with." Then she furnished me with the names of Chick Labone, and Aleck McCauley, she said they generally hung around the school together. She told me that her father never made proper provisions for her home, that they never had enough to eat, that the father would use nasty language in his home, and that she (Charlotte) called her father's attention to this a number of times. She said that her father kept all the money, and that she (Charlotte) could easily see that her mother did not care for her father because of his treatment towards her, and that if he could not notice it he was blind, because she (Charlotte) could easily see this.

Charlotte further stated that her father cared more for her brother Danny, and had no use for her and her mother - That on one occasion her father followed her (Charlotte) to find out where she was going, and that recently since this thing happened he has tried to put her away.

Charlotte spoke about Mrs. Minnie Clarke stating that she thought that

Minnie Clarke was jealous of her mother, but she could not advance a good reason for it. Charlotte also stated that her father is receiving advice from Dr. Cooper.

Interviewed Jim Mills at the schoolhouse and later at his home, and on this occasion I received the following statement from him -

That he is very much peeved by the outcome of the Grand Jury proceedings. That the newspapers have done a lot of good in this case, and he is going to continue to push it. That if it was not for he bringing Dr. Crenk in this, nothing would be known as to the actual conditions. That the authorities should have placed his family and the Hall family and relatives under arrest immediately when the bodies were discovered, in that manner they would have gotten the truth. Because he is a poor man he has been questioned at length, and the wealthy folks were not questioned for almost a week after. He said that Mr. Hall is more to blame than his wife, as he (Mr. Hall) was supposed to set the example. That the Hall's, and their relatives, could tell more if they wanted to. I then put the question point blank to Jim Mills, "Was there any information that you could give me that would involve Mrs. Hall or her relatives." His answer to me was, "If I knew I wouldn't tell." He said that Henry Stevens and Beckman were close friends, and that the Somerset County Officials were very lax in their investigation, but that if the Middlesex authorities had been left alone they would have cleared up the situation. He said that Mrs. Mills told him that Mr. Hall had a revolver at Point Pleasant, which was used for protection on account of some disturbance at the Camp; she said it was a .32 calibre Automatic, and that he (Jim Mills) asked her whether it was white steel and she answered, "No, it was Blue Steel." That this was on or about the time that Mr. Hall left Point Pleasant so that he could be at the Church for Sunday.

I again questioned Jim Mills as to the letters he saw in his wife's

saw on the night before, September 13th, in the meantime showing him a copy of the "Daily Home News," dated October 18, 1933, in which it purports to print the letters found near the bodies - My reason for asking, was I wanted to find out whether some of the notes published in the papers were the same as the ones he saw in the scarf on the night of September 13, 1933. His first remark to me was that he did not read them. I then asked him was it not possible instead of being three letters as he had previously told me, that it might have been one, as some of the notes published in the papers were very lengthy. He answered, "No, there were three distinct letters." He told me that he had made three visits to the Church on that day and saw Mr. White and his two workmen there, but doesn't recall seeing Mr. Bartholomew.

I then questioned Jim Mills about the clippings Charlotte told me that her mother was going to leave at the Church. Mills then for the first time said, "Yes, I did see some clippings up there and a copy of a Sunday editorial of a minister by the name of Stickney, and something about Tilden on Lawn Tennis." He said he saw these clippings on a Friday morning which would be September 15th, but he did not know what they were about. I then told him, "I understood that you told me that you saw these clippings on the night of the 14th, on the night when you went back to the Church." He paused, and said, "Yes, you are right, it was on a Thursday night when I went back to the Church at about ten minutes after eleven, I found them and took them." I then asked for the clippings, and Danny left his seat to go to look for them," and Mr. Mills said, "There's no use looking for them you cannot find them." I then asked Mr. Mills if he remembered what was written on these clippings, and I received the following information: - "One out of twenty carry their first love - Kests the snow and weeps to see it melt - A word from the wise." That is as much as he remembers out of one of the clippings; the other spoke about

a minister by the name of Stickney, and the other spoke about Tilden and Lown Pennie. The latter two were from papers about a week old. The full name of the minister was Stickney Grant. He also said that on Friday morning when he (Mills) was opening the windows at the Church he discovered that the papers had been rifled and scattered about in Mr. Hall's desk at the Church.

While we were talking, Danny said, "Pop, I think you can get \$25.00 a month for myself and Charlotte." Mr. Mills' answer to this was, "No, because I am the head of the family and can work, if I was dead and mother alive, why she then might be able to get it. He (Mills) then said that he had law sheets sent to him on the g.t., and he followed them.

Jim Mills further stated, "Find the people who put the letters where the bodies were found, and we will get the ones who committed the crime, for she should have not been killed that way. Mills then tried to convey to me how sorry he was that his wife had been killed, and how good Charlotte was - This does not coincide with Charlotte's statement as to the manner in which her father had treated her mother.

I also find the following discrepancy in Mr. Mill's statement - Charlotte said when she came home at 10 o'clock her father was not home, but he came in a few minutes after, and then went out again. Mills tells me that after Mrs. Mills left the house at about 7.25 p.m. he started to work on some brackets back of the porch until it got dark, then he went to the kitchen table and worked there until 9:45 p.m., then stopped, read the "Evening World," and "Home News", he quit reading at about 10.10 p.m., put on his hat and coat and went down to the front stoop and stayed there until about 10.30 p.m. - Mrs. Kelly sat on the stoop talking to Jim, and Mrs. Bank came along and spoke to Mrs. Kelly about an automobile accident, stating Lawrence Will was hurt. Then Mills said he left, went over to the corner, stayed there for about fif-

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teen or twenty minutes smoking, then he walked to Mrs. Blits's candy store on Abel St., it was then about 11 o'clock, and from there he went to the Church, arriving there at about 11.10 p.m. - He closed the windows, put out the lights locked the door and went home, arriving there at about 11.20 p.m. He said Charlotte and Danny had returned home about 10 p.m., his wife was not home at this time, so he (Jim) left the light burning and the door unlocked. He then went to bed and slept until about 2.10 a.m. Friday morning; he woke up, saw the light still burning; put on his overalls and clippers, no stockings, and went to the Church, opened the door and turned on the lights all through the Church, saw nothing disturbed, put out the lights, and went home. Upon arrival at home he put the lights in his house out and left the door unlocked. He heard every hour strike from the clock in the room. He got up at 6 a.m. made breakfast at about 7 a.m. and went to school for work. Between 7 a.m. and 9 a.m. he went to the Church and opened the windows on the Sunday School side. As he came into the study to unlock the window, he saw Mrs. Hall in the back of him; she had on a Black and white striped skirt, and said to Mills, "Did you have any clocksee down at your house last night?" Mills said, "No". Mrs. Hall said, "Mr. Hall has not been home all night." Mr. Mills said, "My wife has not been home all night." Mr. Mills said to Mrs. Hall, "Do you think it is an elopement?" Mrs. Hall said, "Oh no, it must be foul play." Mrs. Hall then left Mills. Mr. Mills then went along as far as the Sunday School door and told Mrs. Hall, "You better call up the Police and the hospital, he might have been in an accident during the night." Mrs. Hall said she would, and then left in her Dodge Cedar which was parked in front of the gate.

Mr. Mills said he saw Mrs. Hall again at about noontime, and met her at the back porch on his stoop. (This would be Friday morning.) "Mrs. Hall said, "Have you heard anything?" Mills said, "No." Then Mrs. Hall answered,

"I have not heard a word." She was there only a few minutes and then left.

A little before 5 p.m. on Friday, September 15th, Mills and his son, Dan, went to Collins' for ice, brought it home and while putting it into the ice-box Mrs. Hall came up on the back porch, and asked him (Mr. Mills) "Did you hear anything." Mills said, "No, Mrs. Hall". Mr. Mills does not remember whether Mrs. Hall had her auto on this occasion or not. She stayed there only a few minutes and left. Mills then got his supper ready and stayed in the house until 7.30 p.m., then went to the Sunday School, opened it up, put the light on the left side of the school on, and then went to Mrs. Hall's house - He was not there long when he asked Mrs. Hall, "I don't know what to make of it?" Mrs. Hall said, "They must be dead or they would be home." Mills said, "Mrs. Hall do you think they went to that Coney Island Carnival?" She said, "No, no, they would not go to a place like that." Mills left and returned to the Church at about 8 p.m. and sat on the Church steps until choir rehearsal finished, then he went home, arriving there at about 10 p.m.

On Saturday morning Mills got up at about 7 a.m., went to school at about 8 a.m., worked until 9.30 a.m., he was a broke up and could not do work of any account, worry, worry, all the time. He went to Mrs. Hall's house but she was not at home, he thinks she was downtown. He waited a while, until about 10 a.m. he thinks. He saw her after she came back but could not remember what she said. He asked her if she had heard or found out anything. She said, "no." Mills then left and went home after dinner. At about 1 p.m. Mills went to Mrs. Tennyson on Albany Street, and said, "Augusta, was Eleanor here?" Augusta said, "No, Jim." Mills then said to Augusta, "She went out Thursday night and I didn't see her since."

Mr. Mills left Augusta's and started home - About half block from the house a little girl told him that Mrs. Tennyson wanted to see him. Jim

went back and his sister-in-law said, "I just got word that the bodies were found."

Jim Mills told me that he has never been to DeMasey's Lane. That also on the night of September 14th he saw three letters in his wife's scarf, written on linen lawn paper such as she would buy in a drug store. The scarf was on the clothes-rack in the hall, that he thought that the letters were written on both sides of the paper, and only saw the word Honey, he could not remember the rest that was written on the letters. That on a Thursday night he also went to the Jew's store on Abel Street to find out who had called his wife on the telephone.

This statement was made by Jim Mills on October 23, 1922. This statement was taken in the study of the Church between 7.30 and 11.30 p.m.

It appears to me that Jim Mills is responsible for all the information given out which places the suspicion on Mrs. Hall and her relatives. I also found that when I interview Mills on this occasion, he appeared to be more evasive in his answers - That he is not the fool that he is believed to be, and that he possesses more intelligence than he is given credit for.